A True and perfect Relation

Of a monstrous and Prodigious

WHALE

Lately cast on Shore at

RINGS-END

NEAR

Dublin in Ireland:

With the manner of its taking.

ALSO,

An Account of what Dammages happened to several Ships in those parts by a great Storm.

Sent over in Letters from DUBLIN, *to several Merchants and others in* LONDON.

With Allowance.

LONDON, Printed for T. N. 1679.

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BIBLIOTHECA·BODLEIANA·

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LONDON, Printed for [illegible]

A True and Perfect Relation of a Strange and Monstrous Whale, *cast upon the Shore at* Rings-End *near* Dublin *in* Ireland, *the beginning of* January 167$\frac{8}{9}$.

SIR,

IF your more weighty Imployments, to which great Worth and approved Abilities have deservedly called you, can admit of any Divertisement, I hope you will not take it ill if I endeavour to contribute towards it: Especially having Engaged my self to give a just and due account of such Occurrences as in this juncture of Affairs shall happen here in *Ireland*.

I should be loath to disturb your more serious hours with Feigned Rumours, *Chymæras* and Prodigious Trifles of that nature to make up a Pamphlet;

but ſuch things as have really happen'd, and are worthy of Obſervation; and whereof many thouſands in this Nation have been Witneſſes, I may be the more confident to relate as real Truths; and conſequently more fit to be communicated to your Knowledge.

About the latter end of the laſt Month, the year ended in an Angry humour; God grant the next may ſhine upon us with more Benevolent Stars, and Crown the beſt of Kings His moſt Gracious Majeſty, with Length of dayes, Happy enſuing years, againſt all the malice of His Enemies and Envious Conſpirators.

On the 22*d.* of *December* laſt, the Wind being at W.S.W. it blew a great Storm, but we heard of no loſs of Shipping, only ſome few Merchantmen that fell foul one of another in our Harbour. This high Wind brought down ſuch a vaſt quantity of Snow, as hath not been ſeen in this Country for many years; which in few dayes being waſht away with the abundance of Rain that ſucceeded, and the great Floods that fell from the Mountains, cauſed ſo great a Freſh, that ſeveral Meadows and Iſlands about the River *Liffy* were overflown.

But what was the moſt remarkable and worthy Obſervation in this Occurrence, was a man who Swom down the River on a Hay-Cock. This man near a place called *Killmanum* near *Dublin* above the Bridge, endeavouring to ſave a Cock of Hay that the Water had

had encompaſſed, leapt thereon with a Pole in his hand; his Ship was now afloat, and he had no ſooner got one foot aboard, but he was lanched forth into the main Current, and driven on with that ſucceſs, that he paſt the Bridge without any Damage: When he arrived on the other ſide the Bridge, there were ſeveral Attempts made to ſave him, but the Rapidneſs of the Stream would admit of no help; only one Boat, which meeting full ſide with the Hay-Cook, was overturn'd with two men it, who were both loſt. At laſt more obliged to Providence then his skill in Steerage, when he expected no leſs then the Main Ocean for his Refuge, he was left in a ſafe Harbour on *Clantarf* Iſland betwixt *Clantarf* and *Rings-end*.

This Adventure of the Hay-Merchant was the whole Diſcourſe and wonder of the Town, and had continued ſo yet, if the Sea, more fertile in Monſtrous Productions then the Land, had not afforded them new cauſe of Admiration: For the next day, (as if the Floods were weary of their Load and willing to diſcharge themſelves of ſo great a Burden) was thrown on the Shore a *Whale* of ſo vaſt a Magnitude, as never yet was diſcover'd in theſe parts, or hardly ever ſeen in *Bermudas* their Native Coaſt.

It was taken up by *Rings-end*, within two Miles of *Dublin*, where it lyes as yet, the wonder and amazement of all Spectators, who flock from all parts both of City and Country to ſatisfie their Curioſity with the ſight of this prodigious Spectacle.

This

This Immense Body of boundless Natures begetting, as it exceeds all other Creatures in quantity, so it exceeds almost all possibility of inforcing a belief of the vastness of its Dimensions, on any save those only that have been Spectators, and which I would not undertake to describe unto you, had I not my self been an Eye Witness.

It is in Length 52 Foot, in Breadth proportionable, the Tail is 14 Foot broad when it is extended, the Fins of a Prodigious Length and Breadth, and the Head answerable to the Bulk of the Body; his upper Jawes are supported from the under part of his Mouth with a Beam of Oke of eight Foot long; the Tongue was in Length eight Foot and a half, of a proportionable Thickness and Breadth; The Tongue being cut out, I have seen many people pass through his Jawes, and several stand upright in his Mouth at the same time.

But the most surprizing thing was this, when they had Dissected him of several Shoales of Fish, which they found in his Belly of all sorts whole and Undigested, together with a Seaman intire in his Cloaths, (which being laid on the Shore by the side of the said *Whale*) was soon discovered by his Wife and several others standing by, to be one of the two men that were overturned by the Hay-Cock the day before.

Many

Many ſtrange Conjectures have been made of this prodigious Bulk; Aſtronomers and Aſtrologers have paſt their Judgments upon it, and ſcarce an Ale-wife or Cobler in Town but have had ſomething to ſay to it; and no doubt but it will ſerve the whole Nation with Raſhers and Diſcourſe for many dayes to come.

But for my part, all the Prediction I ſhall draw from it; is, that our Kings moſt Sacred Majeſty ſhall be now reſtored to a ſtate of greater Glory and Security, (as he was formerly) to his lawful Kingdoms and Loyal People; delivered from the hands of all His Enemies and Bloody Conſpirators, againſt the Life and Sacred Perſon of ſo Good, ſo Gracious, and ſo Indulgent a Prince.

Their deſign being to Subvert Monarchy, and alter the Government, which by God and the Laws are Eſtabliſhed in theſe His Majeſties Realms.

Such a *Whale* was caſt up in *England* in the time of the late Uſurpation, a little before the time of His Majeſties bleſſed Reſtoration: And another was caſt aſhore at *Carrig-Fergus* in the North of this Country in the year 40. but that was very ſmall in Compariſon of this.

And we His Majeſties Faithful Subjects do heartily wiſh here, that this Miraculous Prodigy caſt on this Shore

Shore, may be a true Omen, and Presage the Downfal of all such as were Consenters, Abetters, or Contrivers for carrying on this Horrible Plot, either against our most Gracious King or Government, whom that God may long preserve against all their Conspiracies, is the Hearty Prayers and Wishes of

Sir

Your Affectionate Friend and Humble Servant,

J. M.